

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 6-16, and 18-26 were pending in the instant application. The Examiner has withdrawn Claims 22-26 as being drawn to non-elected subject matter. Applicants have canceled, without prejudice, Claims 3 and 7 and have amended Claim 1. Applicants expressly reserve the right to file divisional applications directed to the subject matter not currently being prosecuted.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-3, 6-16, and 18-26 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as allegedly lacking enablement. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and contend that the instant application fully enables the scope of the claims. However, in order to expedite the prosecution of this application, Applicants have amended Claim 1. As stated previously, Applicants reserve the right to file divisional applications to the subject matter not currently being prosecuted.

Applicants have amended Claim 1 and canceled Claims 3 and 7, without prejudice. Applicants note that amended Claim 1 defines X¹, X² or X³ as one being N and the others are CH or C-R_g, where R_g is defined as 1) C₁₋₆ alkyl, which may be optionally substituted with OR^a or 2) S(O)_nC₁₋₆ alkyl; X⁴ is CH or C-R_g, where R_g is selected from 1) C₁₋₆alkyl optionally substituted with OR^a or 2) S(O)_nC₁₋₆alkyl; m as 1 or 2; Y¹ as S; and Q as COOH. Applicants have also amended the definition for substituent Ar, which is supported on page 12 of the specification. Applicants respectfully assert that no new matter is being added with this amendment.

Applicants respectfully contend that the instant invention is enabled by the specification. Section 2164.08 of the MPEP has stated that:

The Federal Circuit has repeatedly held that the specification must teach those skilled in the art how to make and use the full scope of the claimed invention without 'undue experimentation.' *In re Wright*, 999 F.2d 1557, 1561 (Fed Cir 1993). Nevertheless, not everything necessary to practice the invention need be disclosed...All that is necessary is that one skilled in the art be able to practice the claimed invention, given the level of knowledge and skill in the art. Further the scope of enablement must only bear a 'reasonable correlation' to the scope of the claims. See, e.g. *In re Fisher*, 427 F.2d 833, 839 (CCPA 1970).

As noted in *In re '318 Patent Infringement Litigation*, (578 F.Supp.2d 711 (D. Del., 2008)), the "test for whether undue experimentation would have been required is not

merely quantitative, since a considerable amount of experimentation is permissible, if it is merely routine, or if the specification in question provides a reasonable amount of guidance with respect to the direction in which the experimentation should proceed to enable the determination of how to practice a desired embodiment of the invention claimed." (citing *PPG Indus. Inc. v. Guardian Indus. Corp.*, 75 F.3d 1558, 1564 (Fed Cir. 1996) (quoting *Ex parte Jackson*, 217 USPQ 804, 807 (1982))). Applicants respectfully assert that the instant specification provides sufficient enablement for the claims. Applicants note that the instant application describes numerous compounds on pages 10-14, with specific experimentals on pages 34-51. Additionally, the specification contains 6 generic schemes, on pages 23-30, that describe how to make compounds that are covered by the scope of the instant claims. Applicants contend that the instant application provides sufficient support to enable one with ordinary skill to make and/or use the instant invention without undue experimentation. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully contend that Claims 1-2, 6, 8-16, and 18-21, as amended, are allowable. An early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited. If there are any fees, Applicants authorize that such fees should be charged to Deposit Account No. 13-2755. If a telephonic communication will aid in the acceptance of this amendment, please telephone Applicants' representative listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

By / Dianne Brown, Reg. No. 42,068 /
Dianne Brown
Registration No. 42,068
Attorney for Applicants

Merck & Co., Inc.
PO Box 2000 - RY 60-30
Rahway, New Jersey 07065-0907
Telephone No. (732) 594-1249

Date: March 23, 2009